Government of
Saskatchewan

Annual Report
1983-84

Saskatchewan
Agriculture

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Annual Report 1983-84

Saskatchewan Agriculture

Seventy-ninth Annual Report for the twelve months ended March 31, 1984

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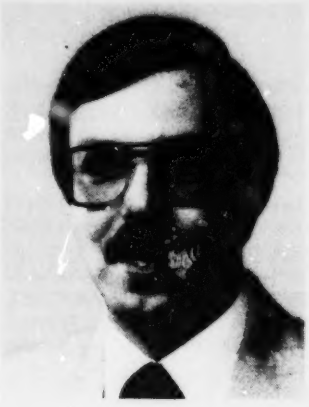
Letters of Transmittal

Department of Agriculture



To His Honour,
The Honourable Frederick W. Johnson,
Lieutenant Governor of the Province of
Saskatchewan

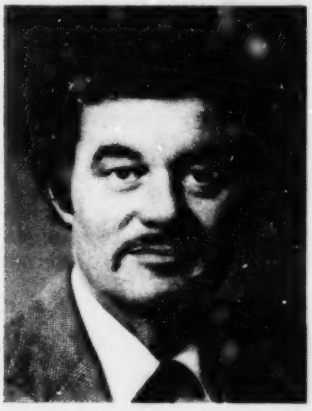
Sir:

I have the honour to submit the annual report of Saskatchewan Agriculture for the twelve months ending March 31, 1984.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorne Hepworth
Minister of Agriculture

Report of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture



Honourable Lorne Hepworth
Minister of Agriculture
Province of Saskatchewan

Sir:

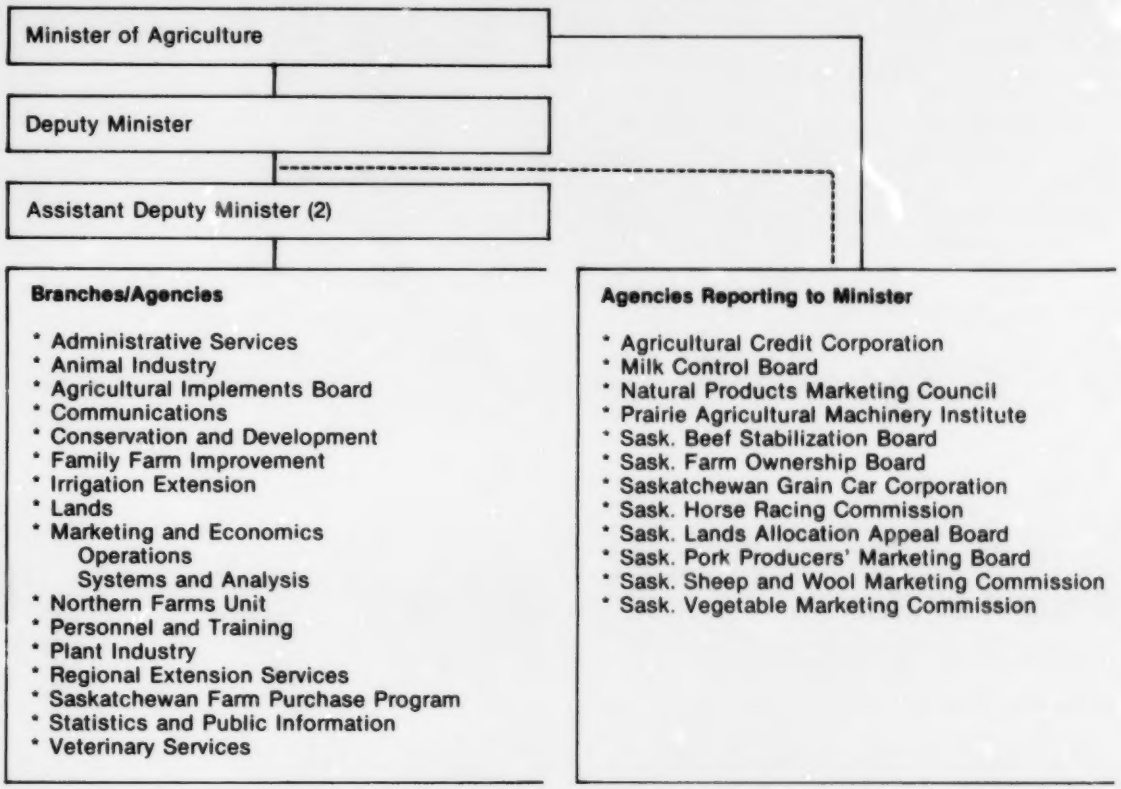
I wish to present to you the annual report of Saskatchewan Agriculture for the twelve months ending March 31, 1984.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Drew,
Deputy Minister

Organization Chart (1983-84)

Saskatchewan Agriculture Organization Chart (1983-84)



——————— Line Responsibility

---------- Functional Relationship

Administrative Services Branch

"Administrative Services provides department support services in budgeting, accounting, space and accommodation, equipment and supplies, mail services, vehicle management, computer management and administrative analysis."

I. Financial Services Section

Services were provided for the preparation and maintenance of payment vouchers, revenue receipts, and the reporting and forecasting of department revenues and expenditures. Approximately 25,000 expenditure vouchers and 10,000 Local Purchase Orders were processed during the year. Co-ordination and documentation of financial data for the department year-end statements and maintenance of budget and expenditure control systems were also major requirements.

The managerial responsibilities of the Agricultural Supplies Revolving Fund were maintained in the Financial Services Section during the 1983-84 fiscal year.

The Expenditure Payment and Reporting System prepared vouchers and provided program managers with information on branch expenditures. Administrative assistance, including accounting duties and record maintenance, was provided for the Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund, Horned Cattle Trust Fund and the Cattle Marketing Voluntary Deductions Act Trust Fund. Administrative assistance was also provided to the Saskatchewan Grain Car Corporation.

Co-ordination of the development and approval of financial systems for new programs and policies implemented in the department, such as the Saskatchewan Horse Racing Commission and the charging of fees for Diagnostic Laboratory Services by Veterinary Services Branch, was provided throughout the year.

The section informed and advised program managers about directives, new procedures and policies that were issued by other government departments and agencies with regard to government accounting practices.

Liaison was maintained with the Internal Audit Division of the Comptroller's Office to ensure that financial procedural requirements were met.

Liaison was also maintained with the Provincial Auditor to ensure that proper procedures in recording costs and revenues were followed with respect to internal control requirements.

Cost-sharing program claims were prepared for the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance program and the Agricultural Employment Agreement. Claims under the Qu'Appelle Implementation Agreement and the Special ARDA Agreement were also monitored and co-ordinated with respect to cost-sharing provisions, along with other smaller agreements.

II. Office Services Section

Services were provided for co-ordination and allocation of department space and accommodation. The department of Supply and Services provided the department with new space in Unity. New space was planned for Wakaw, Rosetown and Fort Qu'Appelle.

Co-ordination was provided for department budget preparation and acquisition of equipment, stationery and office supplies. The division provided central department mail delivery and central photocopying systems. The internal mail pick-up and delivery service was expanded during the year to include all branches in the Walter Scott Building. The section also co-ordinated the department's Central Vehicle Agency fleet and photocopying equipment.

The section continued to maintain the Computerized Inventory System which replaced the manual recording of the departmental fixed asset transactions.

Staff worked closely with the Program-Based Management Information System Unit and the Budget Bureau in Saskatchewan Finance to co-ordinate the department budget preparation and review process. Staff worked closely with the Financial Management System project team on implementation of the new automated Budget Preparation System.

III. Systems Services Section

The department continued to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of program delivery through the use of computers.

Services were provided to co-ordinate the design, development and operation of 43 computer-based systems within the department. This service included the rationalization and acquisition of systems, resources such as analyst services and computer services.

Significant systems undertakings included:
- continuation of the department office automation efforts;
- provision of on-line access for the expenditure processing system;
- using microcomputers to enhance the data recording of the milk testing equipment at the Provincial Dairy Laboratory;
- obtaining approval to enhance the Farm Purchase Program computer system;
- starting a major systems study for the Lands Branch.

The data entry unit provided keying services for 21 computer systems involving 87 subsystems. Remote job entry services which involves the transmission and receiving of processed records were provided for 18 systems. The data entry services received from the private sector were upgraded from a card system to a key to disk system.

Extension of the department office system known as the Saskatchewan Agriculture Information Delivery System was undertaken. The first two implementation phases were combined to include eight head office branches. System proposals were developed which supported extension of the system to two additional head office branches and seven major field offices. Plans were begun to investigate further expansion of the system at the field and head office levels.

The department maintained participation in Sask Tel's videotex pilot project known as Pathfinder by being an active information provider. A departmental commitment was further made to the commercial videotex offering known as Agritex.

IV. Grant Administration Section

Administrative Services managed grant programs included in the Assistance to General Agricultural Interests allocation for the department.

1. Grants of $1,765 were provided to the Agricultural Societies Association and the Horticultural Societies Association to assist in their operating costs.

   The Grant Program for Exhibition Associations and Agricultural and Horticultural Societies provided for reimbursement of up to 50 per cent of the operating costs incurred by these organizations to a maximum of $5,000 for Class C fairs, $10,000 for Class B fairs and $1,000 for horticultural societies. Grants paid in 1983-84 totalled $346,821 compared to $316,570 in 1982-83.

   Close liaison was maintained with the Extension Division, University of Saskatchewan, with respect to the processing of grant payments and the evaluation of the policies. The director of Administrative Services Branch represented the department on the Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies Association Board of Directors.

2. Assistance was provided for sponsors of horse race meets through the rebate of 80 per cent of pari mutuel tax paid by race meet sponsors. A total of $1,441,911 was made in grant payments under this program in 1983-84 compared to $1,598,216 in 1982-83. Additional assistance was also provided to the sponsors of race meets in 1983 in the form of special one-time grants totalling $250,000. The branch provided $30,000 to the newly established Horse Racing Commission to pay their start-up administrative costs.

Agricultural Implements Board

"The Agricultural Implements Board works to improve the availability of repair parts and service for agricultural implements."

During the year 131 distributors were registered in Saskatchewan, representing 231 manufacturers. Inspection of 161 distributors' facilities and 1,069 dealers' facilities were completed. There were 825 licenced dealers at year end. Sixty-six new dealers were licenced and 53 licences terminated during the year.

A total of 206 complaints regarding agricultural implements were received from farmers, dealers and distributors. As well, 687 information calls were handled by the office staff.

As in previous years, surveys of the major parts depots in Saskatchewan indicated a fill rate of 88 to 90 per cent on parts orders. Therefore the problem of parts supply involves about 10 per cent of the total parts requirements. Transportation and customs facilities create further problems in obtaining the required parts.

Ten applications for compensation were handled by the board. Four awards were made for a total of $5,443, and three decisions were pending at year end.

Farmers bought fewer new implements than previous years. This was a reflection of high interest rates, uncertainties of grain prices and markets and a depressed livestock market.

Agricultural Societies

"Agricultural societies enhance rural community life through sponsorship of annual exhibitions, rodeos, farmers' markets and other traditional activities."

There are 72 agricultural societies and exhibition associations in Saskatchewan. The number of communities showing an interest in the formation of an agricultural society continues to increase. One new society was formed in Biggar in the 1983-84 fiscal year. Indications are that requests for the formation of new societies are coming from the younger generations of farmers and businessmen.

The department continued to provide operating grants based on the cost of managing a society for a year. The maximum grant for a regional (Class B) exhibition association or society was $10,000 and a community (Class C) association or society was $5,000.

I. Activities

Summer or fall fairs continued to be the most popular activities sponsored by societies. Other sponsored events included field days, short courses and lectures, beef and swine shows and sales, horse shows and exhibitor schools.

Societies continued to support the 4-H program in a variety of ways, such as awarding scholarships, sponsoring regional livestock shows and sales, providing facilities for shows and other social activities, providing prize money for classes at summer fairs and offering adult leadership.

II. Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies' Association

The association is a voluntary organization of individual agricultural societies that help member societies to improve their programs. In April, one-day regional meetings organized by the association were held at Central Butte, Moose Jaw, Alameda, Maryfield, Melville, North Battleford and Melfort. These meetings provided society members with an opportunity to get together to exchange ideas and discuss matters of mutual interest and concern. The regional meetings also helped to maintain a strong bond between the local agricultural societies and the provincial association.

The association held a one-day workshop at Carlyle on March 8, 1984 for officers and members of local societies on managing an agricultural society. The workshop covered topics dealing with meeting procedures, accounting procedures, audit reports, managment of finances and the appointment and handling of committees.

Animal Industry Branch

"The Animal Industry Branch encourages the development of an efficient livestock industry through its production programs and regulatory services."

Extension, consultant and supervisory services are provided by branch specialists, livestock technicians and livestock inspectors for the benefit of farmers and the livestock industry. Liaison is maintained with research personnel in industry, universities, Agriculture Canada and livestock organizations.

I. Extension and Production Services Section

1. Beef Cattle Unit

The beef Cattle unit provided speakers for several regional and district beef production workshops and organized a three-day provincial beef cattle production seminar "What's In Stock For You?". A newsletter, "Beef Management", was distributed to 23,000 registered brand holders in the province. The Federal-Provincial Record of Performance Program (R.O.P.) completed its second year with format changes to reduce paper flow and improve management summaries. Saskatchewan had 20,600 cows on inventory in the R.O.P. Program. New producers signing on are mainly commercial. Four new units had 400 cows each.

There was a 35 per cent increase in the number of bulls tested at the four bull test stations. More than 560 bulls were tested. The Saskatchewan Sire Proving Program enrolled two more bulls on its program and began active sign-up of test cow herds.

2. Dairy Herd Analysis Service

The Dairy Herd Analysis Service program, in addition to providing production records, provided Dairy Herd Analysis Service optional herd management data on reproduction, somatic cell counts and a comprehensive nutrition program. There were 52 herds on the supervised option and 257 herds on the owner-sampler option of the program. During the fall and winter of 1983, 15 meetings were held throughout the province to discuss the Dairy Herd Analysis Service program and topics on dairy production. An extensive producers manual and three issues of the "Dairymen's Topics" newsletter were produced.

3. Problem Wildlife Unit

Protection of cattle and other livestock from biting insects and parasites is the major concern of the unit. Black fly problems in northeastern Saskatchewan were substantial in 1982. In 1983 an additional three methoxychlor larvicide treatments during the black fly season, demonstrations and using ear tags impregnated with insecticide on 15 herds resulted in fewer black fly attacks on cattle.

Warble fly infestation levels were very low in 1983, about 500 animals of 275,000 marketed. Louse control procedures to coincide with warble fly control practices were advocated and appeared to reduce the cattlemen's losses in 1983.

Coyote predation on sheep is controlled by a variety of techniques: food aversions, use of Komondor guard dogs, electric fences, and is supplemented by hunting under special permits and limited use of poison. This program is operated within a wildlife management plan, and coyotes harvested by trapping and hunting during the established season provided substantial income to licensed trappers. The availability of a control procedure is being gradually integrated into the management programs of most sheep producers and during the 1983-84 fiscal year they reported a reduction in coyote predation on sheep.

Many requests for information about barn rats, mice, garter snakes, rabies vectors such as skunks and bats, and such "nuisance birds" as house sparrows and magpies were received. Advice on coping with poisonous plants in pastures and forage stands was also provided by the Problem Wildlife Unit.

4. Nutrition and Sheep Unit

About 5,700 samples were submitted to the Feed Testing Laboratory, and an average of 4.1 analyses were performed on those samples. New equipment bought during the last two years enabled staff at the laboratory to reduce the time required for responding to clients. More than 700 ration recommendations were made for dairy and beef cattle and sheep in response to about 300 requests from producers.

Several short courses in dairy and beef nutrition were offered to producers in conjunction with courses on artificial insemination or by agricultural representatives.

The unit completed five "Sheep Topics" and several "Latest in Research" publications. A Saskatchewan R.O.P. Sheep Handbook was also published during the year. These and other publications on sheep production were supplied to new and prospective producers, schools and 4-H clubs.

Forty-three sheep producers with 52 flocks were enrolled in R.O.P. programs. These flocks were made up of 1,443 ewes with 2,664 lambs born in 1983. One hundred and seventeen farm calls were made during the year. At the R.O.P. Ram Test Station 39 purebred rams from 15 producers were tested.

The R.O.P. program is being used for selection of breeding stock by producers, and also establishes contacts between staff of the department that leads to provision of information about feeding, housing, disease prevention and other aspects of management.

5. Swine Unit

A significant portion of the swine extension activities were concentrated on nutrition and management of breeding herds. A moderate increase in feed testing was noted. The lighter weight barley produced in 1983 plus increasing costs of protein supplementation led to this increase. Also, the demand for least-cost ration formulation and costing of alternate feeds increased substantially.

In addition to the normal extension programs, meetings and farm calls, a provincial trade show and Swine Symposium were held. Attendance increased at both. Swine Design attracted approximately 800 producers, and the Swine Symposium about 200 producers.

There was a good response to a swine artifical insemination (A.I.) course held in June. Press releases were prepared on various topics and the eight fact sheets that were prepared proved useful in extension activities.

The number of hogs tested under the Record of Performance and Swine Ultrasonics program did not change significantly. In 1982, 8,101 animals were tested, and in 1983, 8,128. The number of females tested declined, but the number of boars tested increased approximately 15 per cent. The use of the R.O.P. test station continued at or near capacity throughout the year. To aid in the promotion and use of performance tested stock, a brochure entitled "Swine Improvement Breeders Map" was prepared and made available to producers.

6. Reproductive Physiology Unit

The unit completed a number of projects including:

- beef ultrasound pregnancy testing device trial;
- sheep ultrasound pregnancy testing device trial;
- dairy heifer synchronization trial; and
- sheep synchronization trials.

The results of these trials will be published in four volumes of the "Fertility Forum" newsletter.

A.I. courses were conducted during the winter in various locations. Eight courses, each five days long, attracted 140 cattle producers. One swine A.I. course was conducted in co-operation with the swine unit in Saskatoon. The unit also developed A.I. refresher courses. Sixty-four producers attended four refresher courses. With the addition of hardcover instruction manual "Artificial Insemination and Reproduction in Cattle", significant advances are being made in A.I. extension.

There were 130 licensed A.I. technicians, a decline of 17 from the previous year. The number of first services reported by A.I. technicians decreased 16 per cent to 16,262 because more producers are doing A.I. themselves after taking courses.

II. Operations and Regulatory Services Section

1. Dairy Quality Unit

The Dairy Quality Unit adminsters four sets of regulations under the Animal Products Act. These regulations govern production, hauling (measurement and sampling), milk-fat testing; and establish minimum grade, composition and quality standards for raw milk and cream as well as manufactured dairy and imitation dairy products. Eleven hundred and fifteen licences were issued during the year. The unit is responsible for determining the quality of milk purchased and preparing 24 milk-fat and settlement reports from which dairy producer payments and milk processor charges are calculated by the province's milk marketing board. The unit receives monthly reports from manufacturing plants on their production and calculates this province's manufactured dairy product statistics for Canada.

Upgrading dairy farms to qualify all dairy producers for a share of the fluid milk market by 1985 continued to be emphasized and some modifications in this program were reviewed.

2. Provincial Dairy Laboratory

During the year 610,390 tests were performed on 234,178 milk samples received by the Provincial Dairy Laboratory. Approximately 87,150 tests on 25,532 standard or reference samples were used to ensure the accuracy of the following tests.

The results of 40,477 tests on 14,719 milk samples were used by the Dairy Quality Unit to ensure the quality of raw milk. Also, 46,748 milk samples were analysed for milk fat content.

For Dairy Herd Analysis Service and for Agriculture Canada's Record of Performance program, 146,654 individual cow milk samples were analysed for fat, protein and somatic cells. The Provincial Dairy Laboratory also provided 1,547 quality tests on dairy products to the dairy industry.

3. Livestock Inspection and Data Processing Unit

This unit provides brand inspection service and documentation of livestock movement. During 1983 almost 1.1 million animals were inspected and recorded. This is down slightly from 1982, a result of market fluctuation. In 1983 approximately 500 computer searches were conducted in an effort to aid owners in finding missing animals.

The total number of brands registered under the Animal Identification Act as of December 31, 1983 was 27,570. In 1983, 672 new brands were issued and 289 were transferred. Of the 6,021 brands that expired, 5,190 were renewed.

The number of livestock dealers licensed by the branch was 197.

Communications Branch

"The Communications Branch assists other branches and agencies of Saskatchewan Agriculture in designing, producing and distributing extension materials. A library section provides reference and research support for technical and policy information."

I. Extension Communications

In 1983-84 the branch's extension communications specialists provided advice and information to staff on all aspects of planning and implementing the communications component of extension activities. Requests for consultative services ranged from helping produce newsletters, publications, slide tapes and media releases to planning and implementing advertising campaigns, the publicity for provincial seminars and the annual agricultural trade show, MEXabition.

The branch continued to provide several direct services for information from the department to the farm audience. Radio commentaries were sent to stations every week and news releases were sent to the print and electronic media twice a month. Background material was sent to agricultural representatives once a month for use in newsletters, newspaper columns or on local radio or television programs. The branch maintained the capability to produce 16 mm and video materials, but budget constraints limited this activity. Many graphics for overheads and slides were prepared for use with groups or by the media.

In 1984 the branch added an art collection service as a source of illustrations for print materials and overhead transparencies. The artwork in this collection is primarily line drawings because this format reproduces well with limited printing equipment.

The branch continued to add to its collection of 35 mm slides and medium format photographs. It also buys and maintains the audio-visual equipment for the department. The branch provides audio-visual supplies to staff who produce their own material, such as films, overhead transparencies and slide shows. The branch added several teleconferencing units and cameras to the inventory.

Branch specialists offered a variety of activities for staff of the department aimed at developing skill and confidence in using different communications methods. Workshops were held on writing, newsletter layout and design, performing on television and using slides. Branch staff also participated in the organization and delivery of the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists' workshops.

"Extension Communications", a newsletter issued four times yearly, continued and "Communication Notes", a series of fact sheets on communications topics, was begun. The extension communications specialists also provided critiques of staff members' communications efforts.

Research efforts in extension communications stressed four areas:

- videotex and Telidon technology;
- computerized data bases and distance education technology;
- upgrading publication production and distribution; and,
- office automation.

Several Telidon pages of agricultural extension information and updates of the Hog Marketing Commission and Beef Stabilization Plan's market prices were created and included in Sask Tel's Pathfinder project. Branch staff participated in a micro-computer workshop for agriculture in Saskatoon. Staff also helped organize the Regina location's portion of the satellite television experiement in which up-to-the-minute cropping information was distributed to sites across Saskatchewan. The branch bought a video camera and began an experiment with small format video. It acquired a word processor, for use in composing and editing print materials and transmitting copy for typesetting.

II. Library

For the library the year was one of reorganization. The collection was weeded, sorted and updated and outdated duplicate documents disposed of. The retention period for each periodical was assessed, the unwanted issues disposed of, and an updated list of holdings sent to the Provincial Library. The classification system for documents was changed to a system which groups publications by organization and provides uniform and quick access to information. A backlog of more than 1,000 titles was also catalogued and added to the collection.

Library staff spent more time on searches of information data bases this year. As a result of more request for searches, interlibrary loan requests also increased.

As a service to department staff the library began publishing "Information Notes", a listing of all newly received publications. These notes have been especially popular with field staff who often request copies of the fact sheets listed.

A word processor was installed in the library and used for both text management and library functions. Library staff composed "Information Notes" and produced the cards for the catalogues on it. The librarian used the word processor to retrieve, collate and edit bibliographies. The technician requested interlibrary loans with the word processor.

In 1984-85 the librarian, in addition to handling search requests from other branches, agencies and departments, researched ways of improving library services. Efforts concentrated on ways of using computers to improve access of the field staff to library resources.

Conservation and Development Branch

"The Branch is responsible for programs to improve conservation, control and utilization of soil and water resources on farmland."

I. Flood Control and Drainage

Flood Control and Drainage for Organized Groups

1. General

The branch administers The Conservation and Development and Watershed Association Acts under which organized groups, farmers and agencies may receive assistance for the development of flood control and drainage projects. Engineering and administrative services are provided for project investigations, design, operation, maintenance and organizational activities. Financial assistance is provided for construction and maintenance.

In 1983 the branch received requests to investigate 19 new project areas. Status of flood control and drainage requests are as follows:

- 117 project petition requests under investigation, survey or design;
- 57 project requests received from conservation area authorities and watershed associations under investigation;
- 58 projects have designs completed and are awaiting local approval;
- 82 projects were under construction;
- 120 projects are under maintenance services.

2. Major Projects

(a) St. Gregor South Flood Control Project

Work was generally completed on the second phase of project construction. The main items of work undertaken in 1983 involved approximately 99,000 cubic metres of excavation, soil levelling and the installation of 33 structures.

(b) Tatagwa Flood Control Project

A contract was awarded in August 1983 for the construction of approximately 9.0 km of drainage channel and the installation of appurtenant structures. The main items of work completed on the projects in 1983 involved approximately 91,000 cubic metres of excavation, the installation of various culvert structures, rockford crossings, a concrete weir and a downstream municipal bridge. It is anticipated work will be completed on the project in 1984.

(c) Cay Flood Control Project

Contractual works on this project, which was started in 1982, were completed during the 1983 construction season.

The contractor completed 9.1 kilometres of drainage ditch involving approximately 53,000 cubic metres of excavation and the installation of 12 appurtenant structures.

The Cay Flood Control Project is located approximately five kilometres west of the village of Beatty.

(d) Rangeline Flood Control Project

An extension to the Rangeline project was undertaken by the Moose Range Area Authority in 1983. The area authority extended invitational tenders for earthwork only and received three tender bids. The low bidder was accepted and he completed the 3.2 kilometres of drainage channel and associated road dyke embankment involving approximately 23,600 cubic metres of excavation. The department of agriculture structure crew installed nine various type structures on this project extension.

The project area is located approximately 19 kilometres north and 6.4 kilometres east of the town of Carrot River.

3. Maintenance Program

Local organizations during the year undertook $438,900 in maintenance activities, up 55 per cent from 1982-83 activities. The branch assisted 64 organizations by providing grants amounting to $293,000. There were 120 projects maintained in 1983.

4. Activities of Local Organizations

The local organizations are responsible for 2,716 kilometres of flood control and backflood irrigation works. Of the 117 organized conservation and development areas and five organized watershed association boards, 94 are considered "active" and are either operating and maintaining their works or are developing proposals for new projects.

5. Rural Municipality Channel Clearing

The purpose of the program is to assist rural municipalities to undertake channel clearing and obstruction removal and to maintain existing drainage ditches which are the responsibility of the municipalities. Thirty-eight projects were authorized during the year and 18 expenditure claims were received. The department paid $65,900 to 12 rural municipalities.

6. Erosion Control

This program provides technical and financial assistance to encourage control of water erosion and gully stabilization. During the year 61 individuals applied for assistance, 33 requests were approved and five requests were rejected. The others were in various stages of review or design. Thirty-five individuals submitted expenditure claims. The department paid $53,290 in assistance.

II. Special Projects

Engineering services involving studies, investigations, surveys and designs were provided on the following sections of the Qu'Appelle:

- Craven to Pasqua Channel
- Channel relocation studies on Piapot Indian Reserve
- Mission-Katepwa Channel
- Lebret Fish Nursery
- Fairy Hill Walleye Rearing Facility

Construction work continued on the channel improvements between Echo and Mission Lakes. Other construction and maintenance works were undertaken in various locations in the Qu'Appelle.

Under the Urban Flood Control program, engineering studies, surveys, designs or investigations were provided to five urban centres. Construction work was undertaken on projects for the towns of Canora, Fort Qu'Appelle and Wynyard and the villages of Lintlaw and Ebenezer and the hamlet of Lac Vert.

Engineering and technical services were also provided to the department of Parks and Renewable Resources. In 1983 designs and studies were undertaken in Edouard Lake - Charron Lake Diversion Project, Ruby Lake Outlet and Pike Lake pump diversion works.

In 1983, investigations, surveys, studies or designs were undertaken on various projects for the Souris Implementation Program. Investigations and surveys continued on farmstead relocations.

III. Irrigation Development

1. Individual Irrigation

During the year new applications were received from 168 individuals and field surveys were completed for 132 individuals, including farmers adjacent to and utilizing the works of the Saskatchewan Southeast Water Supply System.

Total development for the year was 8,199 acres. Under the financial assistance policy, $224,287 was released in the form of grants to 82 individuals.

2. Group Irrigation

Minor work was done on the Moon Lake Irrigation project, completing the initial phase of the main works for irrigation of approximately 3,400 acres. Seepage control measures were done at Macrorie Irrigation Project, including improvement of natural drainage to the South Saskatchewan River. Other projects affected by the 1983 operations were Ponteix Irrigation Project and the Chesterfield Flats Irrigation Project.

3. South Saskatchewan River Irrigation Project (SSRIP)

Investigation services including preliminary and construction surveys were provided to 12 individuals for irrigation development. Development during the year resulted in a net increase of 322 acres. Total development on the project to March 31, 1984 was 39,691 acres, approximately 84 per cent of the potential area.

The Department spent $131,000 on works to control canal seepage and provide water supply points in the irrigation district. The South Saskatchewan River Irrigation District No. 1 (SSRID #1) provided services to the branch for capital and maintenance works on a custom work basis.

4. Sewage Effluent Irrigation

In 1983 technical assistance and investigations were provided to 11 urban centres and associated farmers, some as a result of Saskatchewan Environment requiring urban centres to improve their effluent disposal works. To date 19 urban centres actively utilize sewage effluent for irrigation purposes.

IV. Operation and Maintenance of Reservoirs and Irrigation Supply Canals

The expenditure in the operation and maintenance program involving reservoirs amounted to $18,000. Major work was undertaken to the Avonlea, Dead Lake and Moose Mountain dams.

In 1983, 22,385 acre-feet of water was provided to the Saskatchewan Water Supply Board through the main works of the SSRIP for the Saskatoon Southeast Water Supply (SSEWS) system. Saskatchewan Agriculture has been allocated water for irrigation. By sub-agreements, water is provided to irrigation farmers along the system. During the year $427,372 was paid to the Water Supply Board to cover Saskatchewan Agriculture's portion of the operation, maintenance and construction costs of the SSEWS.

V. Revolving Fund

The Conservation and Development Revolving Fund Operations Section continued to operate within the decision of January 1983 to reduce equipment and activities. The target for termination of the section is March 31, 1985.

The department of Northern Saskatchewan Revolving Fund including Ile a la Crosse, Green Lake Central, Silver Lake near Green Lake and Cumberland House farms was also transferred to the C & D Revolving Fund on January 1, 1984.

1. Dugout Pumping

During the year a total of 450 dugouts and six urban centre reservoirs were pumped under the Emergency Dugout Pumping Policy.

2. Community Pastures

Development and maintenance work was undertaken on 12 provincial community pastures for the Lands Branch. Work included approximately 2,200 acres of breaking or rebreaking, 6,600 acres of working down and 4,300 acres to forage. In addition 4,300 acres were seeded to cereal crops to provide cover or grazing.

3. Structures

The structures program carried out for the Conservation and Development Branch consisted of construction and/or maintenance to works on Crooked Hill Creek, Wolverine Lake, Lanigan Creek - Dellwood, Yorkton South Flood Control, Chesterfield Flats and Moon Lake Irrigation projects, as well as seven flood control projects in the Nipawin-Carrot River districts. Maintenance was made to the works on the Buffalo Pound and Dead Lake reservoirs and construction at the Katepwa outlet.

4. Earthwork

The work done for Family Farm Improvement Branch consisted of the construction of pollution control systems on 60 farmsteads with drainage that entered into the Qu'Appelle River system.

Family Farm Improvement Branch

"The Family Farm Improvement Branch provides extension services to rural Saskatchewan in farmstead planning, farm structures and systems, livestock pollution control and energy conservation."

I. Agricultural Engineering Service

The Family Farm Improvement Branch provides resource specialist services to the department and other agencies on farm building plans, farmstead planning, farmstead equipment, mechanization and heating systems, alternate energy source development, energy conservation and community water and sewage design. Plans for farm structures and material handling systems are modified as new technology is introduced.

Staff participated in provincial and national organizations including the Canada Plan Service, the Canada Committee on Agricultural Engineering, the Expert Committee on Energy and the Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Agricultural Engineering.

The branch carries out engineering related on-farm research and demonstration projects. During the year project activities included monitoring of heat recovery and air circulation systems for poultry barns, natural air grain drying, ground water heat pumps, electronic controls for variable speed fans, farm energy management systems, chaff gathering and handling, radiant heating with natural gas in poultry buildings, control of iron bacteria in wells, microprocessor for water treatment plant control and iron removal in farm scale operations.

I. Agricultural Engineering Service

II. Farm Home Consultant Program

Home design information was provided to farm families, rural house builders and other government agencies to ensure that the characteristics of a functional farm home are recognized.

Interest in energy conserving house plans remained high and there was considerable activity in new construction and retrofitting.

III. Rural Water and Sewage

Technical advice was provided on the installation and operation of farmstead water and sewer systems.

IV. Community Water and Sewage

This program provided low cost plastic water and sewer systems to small communities.

Preliminary reports were prepared for 26 communities. Twenty-one community water systems and extensions and four sewage systems were installed.

A total of $28,320 was collected for preliminary designs and technical fees.

V. Water and Sewage Materials Supply

The branch discontinued the handling of water and sewage system materials for farms and small communities on June 30, 1983. Material warranty service was provided until the expiration of the warranty period on June 30, 1984.

During 1983-84, 742 farmers and small urban communities purchased $453,552 worth of water and sewage materials from Family Farm Improvement Branch.

New products were field tested and evaluated.

VI. The Pollution (By Live Stock) Control Act

The branch administers The Pollution (By Live Stock) Control Act. Permits are issued for the construction of facilities for intensive livestock operations.

Before a permit is issued, approval must be received from the department of Health, Parks and Renewable Resources and Environment.

During 1983-84, 198 applications for permits were received, 109 permits were issued and 22 complaints were received and investigated. No minister's orders were issued.

VII. Livestock Pollution Abatement

Saskatchewan Agriculture shares in the costs of relocating livestock facilities to more desirable locations if they were built before The Pollution (By Live Stock) Control Act came into effect in 1971 and if there are no alternatives to pollution control. No operations were assisted during the past year.

VIII. Water Pollution Control for Livestock Operations in the Qu'Appelle Basin

Under the Canada-Saskatchewan Qu'Appelle Valley Subsidiary Agreement financial assistance is provided to farmers to construct control works or relocate livestock facilities which existed prior to 1971 and which are causing a pollution problem. About 1,000 livestock facilities identified in 1974-75 are under study.

During 1983-84 water pollution control works or relocations were completed on 57 farms and grants totalling $340,244 were paid. Construction services were provided by Conservation and Development Branch and nine private contractors.

IX. MEXabition

The 19th annual MEXabition was managed by Family Farm Improvement Branch and held in Saskatoon with the Saskatoon Fall Fair, and in Regina with the Canadian Western Agribition. Attendance was estimated at 40,000 in Saskatoon and 150,000 in Regina. "Silicon Alley" promoted the use of computers in Agriculture. "MEXabition Theatre" combined education with entertainment.

MEXabition continues to be an important extension tool for all branches of the department. new technology and programs are introduced with the co-operation of supplies and agencies.

X. Extension

The branch provides one farmstead engineer and one technician to work as part of the extension team in each of the six extention regions. Support was provided by headquarters specialist staff.

Most requests for information concerned hog facilities, natural air grain drying, livestock building ventilation, water treatment, farmstead planning, heating systems and manure handling.

Two new bulletins and five new handifacts were completed. Several publications were revised.

The branch was also responsible for writing two regular newspaper columns.

The branch also served on committees for farm shows such as Swine Design, Western Canada Farm Progress Show and Western Canadian Crop Production Show.

Farm Ownership Board

"The Farm Ownership Board is responsible for administering the provisions of The Saskatchewan Farm Ownership Act."

The act allows purchases of agricultural land not exceeding 10 acres by non-resident individuals and by corporations not primarily involved in agricultural production. Requests for exemption to acquire more than 10 acres may be granted by the board.

In this fiscal year, 33 individuals not resident in Saskatchewan purchased a total of 159 acres. Fifty-four non-agricultural corporations purchased 263 acres.

Applications for exemption received from non-eligible individuals and corporations continued to increase.

In 1982-83 the board received 171 requests for exemption from individuals not resident in the province and 127 requests for exemption from non-agricultural corporations. Those applications involved 91,214 acres of land.

In 1983-84, 211 applications were received from non-resident individuals and 158 applications were received from non-agricultural corporations. A total of 128,740 acres were involved.

In addition to the exemption requests received, the board investigated a total of 883 non-resident and a total of 495 corporate acquisitions. A majority of the interests acquired by the non-residents met the special exemption provisions for relatives of one-time resident farmers. A majority of the corporate acquisitions were by those primarily involved in agricultural production. A total of 330,486 acres of land was involved.

To ensure that the public continues to be aware of the provisions of the act, the board undertook a modest advertising and information campaign.

Horse Racing Commission

"The Horse Racing Commission regulates horse racing in Saskatchewan and administers the payment of any grants to race sponsors."

The Horse Racing Commission Act was proclaimed on December 15, 1983. Commissioners were appointed and one meeting was held in the calendar year of 1983.

No grants were paid to race sponors by the Commission in 1983 and no other expenses were incurred.

Horticultural Societies

"Horticultural Societies promote the enhancement of grounds and gardens through educational events, competitons and by doing volunteer horticultural work in their communities."

Saskatchewan Agriculture supports horticultural activities at the local and provincial level. During this fiscal year, the department paid out $23,890 in grants to horticultural societies. An additional $1,750 grant was paid to the Saskatchewan Horticultural Association.

Thirty-six societies were active in 1983. The projects undertaken in addition to the regular horticultural shows included lectures, demonstrations, competitions, community flower, shrub and tree planting, and judge's school.

Fall horticultural shows and the sponsorship of educational events such as courses and workshops on horticultural husbandry continued to be the most popular activities of societies. Horticultural societies provide information on new developments in cultural practises in fruit, vegetable, flower, shrub and tree production. Several societies and their members provide instruction for horticultural classes sponsored by community colleges. Other societies provide information to the public by press, radio, television, special speakers at seminars, courses, workshops, demonstrations and planned tours. These educational activities are most significant in the dissemination of information on horticulture.

The cost of food, and especially fresh fruit and vegetables, is an incentive for more home owners to have gardens and a few fruit trees. There is ample evidence to show that quality fruit can be grown in Saskatchewan; hardy varieties of plums, apples, apple-crab, cherries, pears, raspberries and strawberries are available for planting.

During 1983 the Saskatchewan Horticultural Association undertook a variety of projects and continued support of the Ornamentals Demonstration Plots at the Experimental Farm in Indian Head.

The 1983 Provincial Show was held in Rosetown in August and the Annual Convention was held in Regina. Several judge's schools were conducted during the Provincial Show in various subjects including floral art, vegetables, cut flowers and gladiolus. The convention included the annual meeting and many lectures and demonstrations. An excellent floral art demonstration and class was offered at the convention. Five horticultural societies attended the 1983 spring meetings of the Saskatchewan Agricultural Societies Association.

Irrigation Extension Branch

"The branch develops and communicates information to meet the needs of individuals, groups and agencies involved in irrigation. The branch is responsible for the South Saskatchewan River Irrigation Act."

The highlight of the year was development of a computer data base irrigation file for Saskatchewan. This will provide a record of the areas irrigated, systems, soils suitability, water quality and quanitity, as well as the current standing of any project. The system was expected to go into full operation in 1984. The project is being developed in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Water Corporation and the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration.

I. Services to Individual Farmers

The major summer 1983 activity was a project with 60 farmers from Ruddell to Brownlee and from Cabri to Aberdeen. Staff of the branch monitored conditions on the farms every second week, discussed projects and former records with farmers and kept records. The staff produced 285 summaries to farmers containing nearly 2,400 measurements and almost 1,000 recommendations.

II. Group and Public Services

The "Irrigation Newsletter" was the main publication of the branch. Four editions were sent to 2,500 farmers. More than 1,000 irrigation publications were distributed by staff at the irrigation display booth which was set up at the National Conference of the Water Resources Association in Saskatoon, at the Saskatoon Fall Fair and at the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina. Approximately 200 visitors to the display asked to be put on the mailing list for the newsletter.

Additions and changes to the irrigation manual of branch publications were distributed regularly.

Two-day irrigation extension short courses that were held at six locations during the winter attracted an average of 30 clients per course. The branch also arranged a variety of irrigation information services throughout the province. prepared radio and news releases, and provided several tours for groups.

III. Programs for South Saskatchewan River Irrigation District No. 1 (SSRID #1)

This was the eighth year of the ten-year program to fund operation of the SSRID #1. In 1983-84 the grant amounted to $109,200; 20 per cent of the operation and maintenance budget.

A pumping assistance grant provides 50 per cent of the SSRID #1 share of power pumping costs until December 31, 1984. The grant amounted to $38,173 in the year.

The undeveloped acreage grant is equal to the water rate on the acreage difference between 42,000 acres and the developed acreage of the budget year 39,324 acres in 1983-84. The grant was $27,830.

A capital replacement grant provides 50 per cent of the amount invested by the SSRID #1 board for long term replacement of capital works to a maximum grant of $20,000. The amount awarded in 1983 was $20,000.

IV. Other Research and Development

The Land Development Policy in SSRID #1 was phased into the provincial policy as scheduled in the 1980 policy statement. Special Crop Processing and Storage in the Outlook area was discontinued for 1983-84. The provincial policy on Irrigation Crop Demonstration was replaced by irrigated projects in the FarmLab programs of the department.

The branch financed the following research by contract:

Saskatchewan's Commitment to Potato Adaptation Trial Univ. of Sask. Hort. Dept.	$24,000
Irrigated Alfalfa Variety Trial Sask. Dehydrators Association	$ 4,979
Onion Herbicide Trial Univ. of Sask. Hort. Dept.	$ 3,500
Sunflower Variety Trial Univ. of Sask. Hort. Dept.	$ 1,000

Copies of preliminary reports on the above are available on request.

Assistance was also provided on research funded by others in the area, for example:

- Agriculture Canada's canola/mustard irrigation versus dryland trial;
- the Saskatchewan Corn Committee's corn variety trial;
- the European Forage Trial of Saskatchewan Agriculture and KWS seeds;
- numerous irrigation-related FarmLab projects.

The Land Reclamation Policy in SSRID #1 provides assistance to develop a program for reclamation of land where it is evident that without some control or rehabilitation the land will become non-productive. The process is lengthy because a detailed investigation of soil, water table and crop growth are made to identify the measures required. This was a project of Irrigation Extension and the Conservation and Development branches of Saskatchewan Agriculture. Individual projects were funded by each branch. The total funding by the Irrigation Extension Branch was $47,036. Almost all the money was spent on canal lining and rehabilitation.

Projects that resulted in publications included:

- Projected Costs and Yields of Irrigated Crops at Outlook, 1984;
- CACA Herbicide Directory;
- Transition to Irrigation;
- Why Irrigate?;
- Outline of Assessing Profitability;
- Fertility of Irrigated Soils;
- Tissue Analysis of Cultivated Crops;
- Soil Problems;
- Irrigated Land Assessment
- Irrigation and Population (update).

Lands Branch

"The Lands Branch administers provincial land designated for agriculture production. As of March 31, 1984 the branch administered 8,812,410 acres of land."

On April 1, 1983, the land formerly adminstered by the Saskatchewan Land Bank Commission was transferred to the Lands Branch. This included 1,195,725 acres of land held under 3,059 lease contracts.

On March 31, 1984, 4,154 cultivation leases covering 1,422,672 acres were in effect. There were also 7,780 grazing leases on 5,886,775 acres including 505,909 acres leased to P.F.R.A. for their pasture purposes. The Provincial Community Pasture Program utilized an additional 789,126 acres in 54 cattle and two sheep pastures. There were 1,071 hay leases in effect on 161,898 acres. The remaining land administered was held under sale agreement; miscellaneous leases, such as sand and gravel quarrying; or was unallocated. There were 337,975 acres of unallocated crown land. Land remains unallocated because of low productivity, inaccessibility, poor drainage, severe topography, stoniness or excessive development costs.

I. Lease Dispositions

Land which is unallocated and not eligible for sale may be leased under long term agreements. Land classified as critical wildlife habitat; adjacent to a lake or river; environmentally sensitive; required for higher or public use (e.g. gravel) was not eligible for sale. Changes in the assignment of lease policies enabled transfer of crown land leases to the purchaser of the deeded portion of the farm regardless of family relationship, when considered an integral part of the farm unit. Lease assignments had previously been limited to family members acquiring the farm or ranch unit.

II. Sales

The Crown land sale policy provided for the sale of provincial land to the leaseholder or to the farming public by tender if the lease contract had been terminated or surrendered.

Sales to lessees was at fair market value. Terms were cash or time sale agreement. Time sales were for a 15-year term with a 15 per cent down payment required. Interest charged was 10 per cent for the first 10 years and the Farm Credit Corporation rates in the tenth year applied for the last five years. Land sold by tender was on a cash basis and was limited to farmers controlling land assessed at less than $30,000. A total of 309 sales on 65,914 acres were completed in the 1983-84 fiscal year.

III. Land Improvement Program

Lessees wishing to improve land through clearing and/or breaking made application and were contacted by a land representative who authorized development on areas considered suitable. Factors limiting development included wildlife habitat, soil type, topography, recreational value and importance for other uses. In prairie areas the lessee paid the development costs and will recover those costs by retaining crops. Rental increases will be phased in the fifth, sixth and seventh year following breaking. Where clearing is required the lessee has the option of having the department pay the development costs or pay for the development himself and retain crops to recover costs. Rates of up to $115 per acre for clearing and breaking and $30 per acre for workdown and root picking were authorized. In 1983-84, $1,204,076 was expended on land development on grazing and cultivation leases. Clearing was completed on 8,233 acres and 10,532 acres were broken. The development of 9,698 acres under the crop retention option was also authorized.

IV. Community Pasture Operations

The Lands Branch operated 54 cattle pastures which carried 78,371 head of adult cattle plus 48,566 calves from 2,842 patrons. Some 40,569 cows were placed in department operated breeding fields and an estimated 8,000 cows were bred in patron fields. The department also operated two provincial community sheep pastures located at Mortlach and Tompkins. Forty patrons pastured 3,487 ewes and 1,448 lambs. Approximately 15,061 acres of rejuvenation was underway, costing an estimated $448,834. Much of the work was contracted to farmers and private contractors. Including the cost of spraying for brush control, $415,570 was also spent in 1983-84 on capital construction and land development for provincial pastures.

V. Lebret Training Farm

In 1983 the Lebret Farm operation consisted of approximately 150 acres of cultivated land, 350 acres of perennial forage and 90-head cow herd. The cow herd was sold in the fall of 1983. Some 2,100 acres of the farms' land were rented to local farmers on a one-year basis.

VI. Revenues

Land administered by Lands Branch produced a revenue of approximately $40,000,000 in 1983-84. Major sources of revenue were land sales $14,000,000, lease rentals $20,000,000 and community pasture operations $5,500,000.

Operations Branch

"The Operations Branch works with producer and marketing agencies, department branches and agencies and other government departments to initiate, develop, implement and evaluate activities and programs in marketing, land use, production economics and farm business management."

I. Marketing Section

The Marketing Section provides support services to producers and agribusiness in market development, analysis and organization and in product promotion. The section assists with analysis of new markets, gathering market intelligence and examining existing markets for livestock, crops and food.

Activities of the staff in the Oilseeds and Special Crops area included:

- participating as a member of the market development committee of the Canola Council of Canada;
- providing project direction by serving as a steering committee member for a Saskatchewan vegetable industry study and an industrial potato evaluation study;
- assisting industry people in developing market proposals for several products including canola and fibre flax;
- organizing a canola market development mission to the province from India and accompanying the mission while in the province.

Activities of the staff in the Livestock and Meat area included:

- providing information to breed associations or individuals upon request for all species of livestock;
- serving on the board of directors for the Canadian Western Agribition and the Regina Exhibition Association;
- hosting livestock missions to Saskatchewan;
- being involved in selection and co-ordination of foreign delegations to Agribition;
- providing industry related information to the federal department of industry, trade and commerce, commercial officers and overseas trading companies;
- assisting livestock associations in their promotional efforts;
- attending various livestock events such as; Regina Bull Sale, Vanscoy Sheep Field Day, and Saskatchewan Stockgrowers' Convention;
- working on special assignment on Northern Agricultural Development;
- being involved in studies about processing facilities and other value added activities.

II. Saskatchewan's Own Program

Saskatchewan's Own - Take Home a Taste of Saskatchewan was launched in October 1978. Its major objective was to identify products grown, produced or processed in Saskatchewan. The Saskatchewan's Own logo was registered in July 1979 as the official mark for services "to facilitate the promotion and sale of Saskatchewan food products to Saskatchewan comsumers."

Saskatchewan's Own also worked with producers and processors on product development, researching and developing markets for new products, expanding local markets, and establishing new and export markets for proven products. Activities during the past year included:

- planning and co-ordinating individual and group marketing and promotion projects;
- introducing new processors into the Saskatchewan marketplace and where possible marketplaces outside the province;
- co-ordinating Saskatchewan processors' participation in national and international food fairs through appropriate agencies and the fedreal department of external affairs;
- local, provincial and national media promotion of Saskatchewan food products, including national trade publications.

III. Farm Business Management Section

The primary role of the Farm Business Management section is to develop, organize and provide farm business managment information and advice to farmers, extension staff, course instructors and other farm advisors. This section advises policy makers on matters pertaining to economics and farm management and provides economic analysis in agricultural policy, programs and production techniques. The following publications were revised during 1983-84:

- Income Tax for Farmers
- Estate Planning
- Farm Business Arrangements
- Income Tax Management
- Insurance Management

- Law for Saskatchewan Farm Families
- Savings and Investments
- Sources of Farm Credit
- Farm Credit Management
- Farm Machinery
- Custom and Rental Rates

During 1983-84, the Farm Business Analysis Program was started to serve as a business analysis service to farmers and to provide average cost of production information. The Farm Business Management Calender was updated. Several sections in the Saskatchewan Farm Business Management Data Manual were brought up-to-date including grain drying costs, forage, harvesting and hauling comparisons, poultry production costs, bee production costs, and sheep production costs.

Managing Farm Technology, a seminar sponsored by Saskatchewan Agriculture and organized by the Farm Business Management section was operated in 1983-84.

Staff members analysed several policy and program issues during the year including fluid milk pricing and income tax changes as they related to the formation of policy by the government of Saskatchewan.

Farm Business Management staff provided a number of training workshops during the year including farm incorporation, farm operating arrangements, and economics of alternative forage handling systems. Staff also participated in meeting with regional specialists' on the development of information on tax management.

IV. Saskatchewan Agricultural Research Fund

The branch administers the Saskatchewan Agricultural Research Fund, established in 1979. A discussion of the fund's activities is contained in its 1983-84 annual report.

V. Saskatchewan Market Development Fund

The branch provides administrative support to the Saskatchewan Agricultural Products Market Development Fund. The fund received an appropriation of $294,250 in 1983-84. Assistance is approved for projects by an inter-departmental committee involving the Department of Economic Development and Trade, the Department of Finance and the Department of Agriculture.

The major objective of the fund is to provide assistance to firms and organizations to undertake market feasibility, market development and product and process development projects for Saskatchewan agricultural and food products.

The secretary of the Market Development Fund worked with commodity marketing specialists on about 50 market development projects during the 1983-84 fiscal year.

A discussion of the Market Development Fund's activities is contained in the 1983-84 Market Development Fund annual report.

Personnel and Training Branch

"The Personnel and Training Branch provides the department with staffing, classification, staff relations, training and development, and payroll services. It also provides policy direction and guidance for administration and management of personnel to both the department and its associated agencies."

I. Administration

The Personnel and Training Branch continued its effort to develop procedural changes in order to streamline personnel services.

II. Staffing

During the fiscal year 1983-84 the staffing unit co-ordinated 68 competitions for permanent positions, comprised of 26 professional, 11 technical and 31 clerical. In addition, the staffing unit assisted management in recruiting casual, temporary and labor service employees to meet program needs. In all, there were 406 staffing actions in 1983-84.

The department recruited four newly graduated agrologists into its training program. For the first few months of their employment they were assigned to work under a regional co-ordinator and were provided with a broad understanding of the functions and duties of the department's various branches. After the training period they were placed in vacant professional agrologist positions.

III. Classification

There were 34 requests for classification review in the permanent classified service, and five requests for classification review in the labor service. In addition, most of the labor service positions were reviewed, in conjunction with the Public Service Commission to ensure that classifications were correct.

The mandate of the Agrologist Committee was continued and changes in appointments were made to the committee.

Personnel and Training also assisted the Saskatchewan Pork Producers Marketing Board and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation in their staff classificiation reviews.

IV. Staff Relations

The branch provided assistance to the Saskatchewan Pork Producers Marketing Board and the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Board in negotiations with the Saskatchewan Government Employees' Union. In addition, the branch co-ordinated management proposals and worked with the Public Service Commission on the collective agreement that covers the department's employees.

V. Training and Development

Training and development of employees is a continuous program in the department.

1. Each year the Public Service Commission offers courses in special skills such as leadership, effective writing, and managing a small work unit. In 1983-84, 158 department employees participated, representing 25 per cent of total permanent staff. In addition, 28 employees attended special seminars and courses of a technical nature directly related to their professional discipline.

2. All typists attended the course, "Today's Secretary" designed to improve their effectiveness.

3. Defensive driving courses were conducted for 47 employees. Two employees of the Personnel and Training Branch became instructors in defensive driving.

4. Two employees in Personnel and Training Branch took an advanced course in the operation of word processors. The branch continued to instruct other employees in word processing.

5. Publication of the series "Personal Development Notes" was continued. These are short articles on various aspects of training and development. Approximately 500 copies of each article were distributed to staff in the department and its agencies.

6. Discussions were continued with the Public Service Commission and some work was done with a view to establishing a manpower plan for the department. In conjunction with the Public Service Commission, a pilot project on performance appraisals was established.

VI. Payroll

The integrated payroll service functioned well. This service provided full pay benefits record keeping, pay benefits calculations and information services regarding staff entitlements.

Plant Industry Branch

"The branch is responsible for the promotion, development, production and protection of field, forage, horticulture and honey crops."

Agricultural specialists work with other branches of the department, Agriculture Canada, universities, industry and other related agencies to provide guidance in the development of crop production and protection programs and to provide pertinent information to farmers. The staff also helps the agricultural industry and other departments of government to develop policies and programs to promote more efficient crop production.

I. Crop Production Services

1. Cereal and Oilseed Crops

The cereal and oilseeds specialist is responsible for interpreting and disseminating results of research and providing consultation and advisory services. The following programs were carried out by the cereal and oilseed specialist:

a) The publication Varieties of Grain Crops for Saskatchewan was revised. Of the 100,000 copies printed, 30,000 were distributed to the extension staff in early January, and 70,000 were distributed to farmers as an insert to the February issue of Farm Light and Power.

b) A Pedigreed Seed Growers' Directory was prepared in co-operation with the Saskatchewan Seed Growers' Association and 75,000 copies were distributed as an insert to the February issue of Farm Light and Power and to extension staff.

c) A seed cleaning workshop was held in Saskatoon in February. About 175 producers attended. This was organized in co-operation with the University of Saskatchewan.

d) The activities of the Stock Seed Committee were reduced during the year because of the increased activity of SeCan and Cen Alta Seeds Limited. About 50 applications for probation were approved, and 20 applications for Breeder Seed were processed.

e) Assistance was provided to three organizations: The Saskatchewan Seed Growers' Association, Flax Growers Western Canada and The Canola Council of Canada.

f) Thirty seed dealers' licences and 41 seed dealers' agents' licences were issued.

2. Forage Crops

The forage crops specialist co-ordinated revision of the Saskatchewan Forage Crops Recommendation bulletin. Sixteen thousand copies of this publication were distributed through Regional Extension Services and agribusiness. The specialist also helped regional extension staff design and administer FarmLab projects.

The following seed was distributed to Saskatchewan seed growers on behalf of The Canadian Forage Seed Project, for planting in 1984:

Crop Kind and Variety	Amount (kg)
Bromegrass - Carlton	75
Timothy - Climax	550
Alfalfa - Algonquin	750
Angus	175
Beaver	1,140
Rambler	560
Bird's-foot - Trefoil - Leo	150
Alsike Clover - Aurora	100
Sweet Clover - Yukon	325

The forage crops specialist also served as secretary to The Canadian Alfalfa Seed Council, and as the provincial director with SeCan Association.

3. Special Crops

The Special Crops Agronomist is responsible for providing technical information about crops produced in Saskatchewan to farmers, provincial organizations, agribusiness, other provincial governments, the federal government and universities. The specialist also administered the Special Crop Demonstration Program.

II. Crop Protection Services

1. Weed Control

The Weed Control Policy, which provides 50 per cent cost sharing of approved projects, was continued. The department's share of the program in 1983-84 was $144,153.

2. Pest Control

Pest control activities were reinforced with the appointment in March 1984 of a specialist to concentrate on an integrated approach to pest management, with an emphasis on vertebrate problems.

a) Insect Surveys

Saskatchewan Agriculture conducts a number of insect surveys each year so it can alert producers, insecticide suppliers and extension personnel about infestations:

- extensive survey of adult grasshopper populations during the fall of 1983 indicated that infestations were decreasing both in terms of density and total acreage affected. It was estimated that between one and two million acres of land would require treatment with insecticides to control grasshoppers in 1984.

- monitoring for redbacked cutworm and pale western cutworm populations using pheromone traps continued in 1983. Cutworm populations continued to be high and some crop loss was expected for the 1984 crop year in the Regina, Rosetown and Kindersley areas.

- the department, in conjunction with Canada Agriculture, monitored for the Bertha Armyworm throughout northeast and northwest Saskatchewan. Damage by the Bertha Armyworm was minimal in 1983.

- the department, in conjunction with Agriculture Canada, monitored the Sunflower Head Moth in southeast Saskatchewan and in the Outlook district. Infestations of this insect were minimal in 1983.

- a survey of wheat heads was conducted in co-operation with Agriculture Canada to determine the distribution of wheat midge and to evaluate its impact on the economy of the agricultural sector. Damage caused by the midge in 1983 was estimated to be more than 30 million dollars. A similarly large outbreak was projected for 1984 if suitable conditions were to persist.

b) Vertebrate Control

A continuous effort to establish a province-wide rat control program resulted in all but nine municipalities joining the program in 1983-84.

c) Laboratory Services

Saskatchewan Agriculture provides specialist laboratory services to identify insects submitted by regional extension personnel and the public. In 1983 there were more than 1,900 inquiries. Approximately 80 per cent of them were related to insects on shrubs, trees and garden plants.

3. Pesticide Safety

The department encourages careful use of pest control products through the Pest Control Products (Saskatchewan) Act and Regulations, and by distributing information about pesticide use and handling to the public, extension and resource personnel.

a) Compliance

Updating of the record-keeping systems for persons required to hold a pesticide applicator permit was continued.

b) Training and Information

The department continued to work with the Canadian Association of Pesticide Control Officials (CAPCO), contributing information about disposal procedures and education, training and licensing sub-committees. One objective is to develop a nationwide approach to pesticide management. Efforts to develop a comprehensive system of pesticide applicator training were continued.

4. Plant Pathology

More than 900 plant samples were received in the Crop Protection Laboratory for disease diagnosis, an increase of 42 per cent over 1982-83. The points of origin provided information about disease development throughout the province. For example, distribution of the Septoria complex in wheat was monitored, and the extent of the disease was confirmed by surveys in the northeast part of the province as the crop season progressed.

Separate surveys were undertaken to monitor the occurrence of Verticillium wilt in alfalfa and leaf stripe in barley crops. Two isolated occurrences of Verticillium wilt were detected in irrigated alfalfa crops in southwest Saskatchewan. The barley leaf strip survey, in co-operation with the Winnipeg Research Station of Agriculture Canada, showed that disease occurrence was less than in 1982 and confined to the 2-row variety, Summit.

Specialized technical support was provided through the Crop Protection Laboratory to the Dutch Elm Disease surveys carried out by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration and the City of Regina. No new case of the disease was detected in 1983.

Regular contributions were made to the department's Crop Protection newsletter. Seven issues were published during the crop season. The annual publication on chemical seed treatments was revised to include forage crops as well as cereals and oilseeds.

III. Soil Services

The branch continued to provide specialist services in soil fertility and soil conservation. Numerous inquiries were answered. The branch also sponsored a conference on soil erosion and land degradation, the second in a series of Western Premier's conferences on soil-related subjects, in Saskatoon in November 1983.

IV. Horticulture Section

Much of the extension effort in 1983-84 was directed to new growers and potential commercial enterprises. in small fruits, several U-Pic strawberry farms were in production and several Saskatoon plantings established. Although vegetable production declined slightly, several new growers were in production. There was much interest in mushroom and greenhouse production.

The farmstead landscaping planning service was continued.

The horticulture staff co-operated with the Experimental Farm at Indian Head in supervising additional plantings in demonstration plots.

Approximately 2,500 telephone calls were handled by the horticulture specialists. These used approximately 75 per cent of the specialists' time during the growing season.

Revision and printing of Roses in Saskatchewan, the Vegetable Production Guide and the 1984 Guide to Farm Practice were completed, as well as a number of fact sheets on various horticulture topics.

Other activities included 36 public meetings, three television and four radio appearances, 20 press releases, a number of speaking engagements and the judging of a number of horticulture shows.

The supervisor worked with a number of committees, including service as secretary-treasurer of Saskatchewan Vegetable Growers' Association, secretary-treasurer of the Prairie Potato Council, ex-officio director of Saskatchewan Greenhouse Growers' Association, and director of Western Canadian Society for Horticulture. The horticulture specialist was acting secretary as well as ex-officio director of the Saskatchewan Horticulture Association and secretary of the Saskatchewan Advisory Council for Horticulture.

The supervisor attended the Canadian Horticulture Council and National Seed Potato Certification Committee in Ottawa, Manitoba Horticulture Days at Winnipeg and Western Canadain Society for *Horticulture and Prairie Potato Council in* Saskatoon,

V. Apiary Section

During the 1983 season more than 100,000 honey bee colonies produced a record crop in Saskatchewan. The total value of honey and bees wax production was more than 10 million dollars, an increase from 1982 despite a decline of approximately 20 per cent in honey prices.

The value to Saskatchewan crop production through pollination was estimated at an additional 50 million dollars.

Commercial beekeeping provided full-time or part-time employment for 1,000 people. A commercial beekeepers short course was attended by 50 producers who were updated on production techniques, wintering methods, and other ways to improve efficiency. The industry continued to strive towards self sufficiency through wintering. More than 50 per cent of the colonies operated in Saskatchewan in 1983 were wintered, thereby decreasing dependence on imported package bees. A research project supported by the Saskatchewan Agricultural Research Fund (S.A.R.F.) continued for its second year during 1983 to explore the possibilities of queen production in Saskatchewan and improved wintering techniques.

The transfer of responsibility of the leafcutter bee industry to the apiary section was completed in 1983. The chalkbrood survey of the leafcutter bee industry was continued by the apiculture specialist to determine the status of chalkbrood disease in Saskatchewan. As well, the specialist assumed the duties of the secretary-treasurer of the Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers' Association.

The leafcutter bee industry continues to grow in Saskatchewan with the majority of the surplus bees being sold to beekeepers in the United States. There were no exports to the Soviet Union in 1983, however, a number of small research lots were shipped to eastern and western Europe.

Field inspections of honey bee colonies were performed by five field workers. The incidence of disease in Saskatchewan continued to remain at a low level.

The provincial apiculturist was invited to Chile, in his capacity as president of the Canadian Association of Professional Apiculturists along with four other representatives from the Canadian bee industry. The group toured Chilean beekeeping and advised the Chilean government regarding the development of their industry and possible trade ties with Canada.

VI. Special Programs

The branch continued to administer the maintenance of a stock of insecticide for use in grasshopper control. The insecticide was made available to producers through the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

Regional Extension Services

"Regional Extension Services' objective is to provide an information and development service to farmers to enable them to take advantage of their opportunities."

Each of the six extension regions develops its own priorities for programs based on local needs. Extension field staff consists of six regional co-ordinators, 45 agricultural representatives and 19 specialists in farm management, communications, livestock, soils and crops.

The branch works with other public and private agencies to deliver extension programs. These agencies include the Extension and Community Relations Division, University of Saskatchewan; community colleges; Wascana Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences; Employment and Immigration Canada; Agriculture Canada; Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; Department of Regional Industrial Expansion; and agribusiness.

I. Program Development

Extension staff members rely on agricultural committees, district boards, regional councils and local organizations concerned with agriculture for assistance in program planning, disseminating information, publicizing department programs, evaluating and gathering reaction to various programs, policies and concerns.

District boards and regional councils assumed greater responsibility during the fiscal year; district boards promoted local FarmLab projects and approved funding for them, regional councils were responsible for regional allocations.

II. Extension Activities

The FarmLab Demonstration Policy provides financial assistance to farmers to establish projects on their farms to demonstrate proven innovative practices in crop and livestock production. The level of financial assistance is restricted to project costs which are above the farmer's normal operating costs.

Under FarmLab, staff developed projects to demonstrate innovative crop and livestock production practices. FarmLab projects included salinity control, intensive cropping systems, fertilizer response and placement, winter annual weed control, special crops and alternative summerfallow systems, swine nutrition, micro-nutrient deficiencies, early weaning of calves, growth implants and fly control.

The 1983 cropping season was marred in northern Saskatchewan by the wheat midge. In many areas glume blotch was prevalent and caused considerable yield loss.

Wind erosion in recent years has raised interest in an alternative to the conventional two and three year summerfallow-crop rotation practices. Staff encouraged alternative summerfallow methods, extended rotations and soil conservation.

Grasshopper infestations caused problems in some areas again, but they were not as severe as predicted. Cutworm damage was prevalent in the west central region. The Bright Sands and Fairlight Forage projects had a successful year demonstrating forage species, fertility and management practices for forage crops. A report was prepared about the forage crops management project.

There was increased interest in the feeding and finishing aspects of beef production. Producers required information about custom feedlots, keeping calves longer and handling cattle efficiently through improved facilities and management practices. Other topics promoted were disease control, livestock nutrition, growth implants and straw ammoniation.

As the complexity of managing the farm business increases, it is necessary for farmers to have up-to-date information. During the year there were more requests for information about tax management and financial and estate planning. There was also more interest in cost of production information, indicating a concern for escalating input costs. Many operators reported cash flow problems during the year.

Agricultural representatives also worked closely with rural municipalities in planning and delivering jointly financed agricultural programs. These were delivered through district boards, municipal councils or ad hoc appointees of the council.

Staff continued to provide information to farmers through newspaper articles, periodic newsletters and regular radio and television spots and programs. The communications program provided farmers with current information quickly, and information about department programs and policies. Individual farmer enquiries increased again in most regions, as did the number of meetings and short courses. Average attendance at group events also increaesd. The number of FarmLab tours also increased as the program continued to mature and became better known.

Extension activities increased in the soils and crops areas such as salinity, extended crop rotation, alternative crops and weed control. Interest in winter wheat production was high with a sharp increase in seeded acreage. Interest also increased in beef and hogs, grain handling, storage and drying and forage handling systems.

III. Extension Policies and Programs

FarmLab program activity escalated during the fiscal year; 311 locally initiated demonstrations were established and payments of $97,551.89 were made to co-operators. This amount plus money paid under the Regional Program Development policy amounted to $145,493.

The Regional Program Development policy was used to complete demonstration projects which were started before FarmLab, and to finish projects on Indian reserves. The policy was discontinued at year-end and is now included in the FarmLab policy.

Forty-three district boards received grants totalling $365,706.60 to cover two-thirds of the cost of employing fieldworkers to conduct a variety of pest control projects. Four Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program districts received a total of $4,558. The Rat Control Program received excellent co-operation.

Grants to 4-H, totalling $350,310 were paid as follows:

- Saskatchewan 4-H Council for provincial program administration	$205,359
- grants to regional councils	$128,400
- 4-H council expenses	$5,885
- 4-H club grants	$10,666

Under the Farm Accounting Policy, $850 was paid to farm accountants on behalf of 22 farmers. This policy was discontinued at year-end.

The Developing Farmer Training Policy, which provided on and off-farm training for beginning farmers, was also discontinued at the end of the fiscal year. The program also provided advisory services and emergency veterinary services. In all, $4,684.88 was paid to, or on behalf of, six beginning farmers during the year.

The Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program (S.I.A.P.) continued to operate under an agreement between the province and the Saskatchewan Indian Agriculture Program Inc., which terminates March 31, 1985. The federal treasury board approval and subsequent management agreement with the minister of Indian Affairs provides for S.I.A.P. Inc. to continue full management and delivery of the Indian Agriculture Program in Saskatchewan.

Major emphasis is placed on developing viable farms on Saskatchewan reserves.

The Saskatchewan Agriculture-S.I.A.P. agreement provides for agricultural representatives and extension specialists to work with Indian farmers and band councils to achieve the goals of the program. Agricultural and representatives work with district boards which have representation from all reserves. The district agricultural representatives supervise and train staff employed by S.I.A.P. including Indian assistant agricultural representatives; horticulturists, home economists, financial advisors, on-site advisors and summer students.

The wild rice program was again expanded. Potential production is now 1,000,000 pounds per year. However, less than optimum growing conditions limited production to about 600,000 pounds.

The Indian Agriculture Program received $47,940.83 to conduct 29 demonstration projects under the Regional Program Development Policy.

Northern Agriculture Unit

Effective January 1, 1984 the Northern Agriculture Unit, part of the Department of Northern Saskatchewan, became a part of Regional Extension Services Branch. Four permanent and one equivalent temporary position provide extension services on Wild Rice and Small Scale Food Production Programs.

Saskatchewan Farm Purchase Program Branch

"The Farm Purchase Program helps owners of small and medium-sized farms, particularly young farmers, to buy land by providing money to help offset high interest costs and by ensuring stable interest rates for the first ten years of a farm land purchase. For the first five years of a loan, the Farm Purchase Program pays interest rebate grants equal to the difference between payments at available interest rates and payments at eight per cent. For the next five years, rebate grants equal the difference between payments at available interest rates and 12 per cent."

I. Organization and Staff

The Farm Purchase Program Act received Royal Assent on December 17, 1982. From then until March 31, 1983, the program was administered by the chairman of the Land Bank Commission and a small number of commission staff. During this period plans were compieted to set up a new branch in the department.

On April 1, 1983, the Farm Purchase Program Branch was established with a staff of seven consisting of a manager, assistant manager, administrative officer, accountant, accounting clerk, and two secretaries. In 1983-84 the administration cost was $415,671.

II. Program Delivery

The program is available to eligible Saskatchewan farmers through approved lenders. From December 17, 1982 to July 1, 1983, the federal Farm Credit Corporation was the only approved lender. The regulations were amended effective July 1, 1983 to enable the program to be delivered through branches of five major banks and the credit unions throughout the province. Lenders are repsonsible for determining an individual's ability to acquire financing and to provide the loan funds.

III. Program Progress

During the initial three and one-half month period, from December 17, 1982 to March 31, 1983, 607 applications for enrollment representing 69.46 million dollars of eligible loans were received. From April 1, 1983 to March 31, 1984, 1,957 more enrollments were received and processed, comprising 219.11 million dollars of eligible loans. As of March 31, 1984 enrollments totalled 2,564 with eligible loans of 288.57 million dollars. Two thousand three hundred and forty-five of those enrolled had drawn down loans totalling 267.519 million dollars. Two thousand and forty-four interest rebate grants totalling $4,189,720 were issued to Saskatchewan farmers in the 1983-84 fiscal year.

Statistics and Public Information

"The Statistics section collects, analyses, interprets and disseminates agricultural statistics. The Public Information section keeps farmers and the general public informed of the policies, programs and legislation of Saskatchewan Agriculture."

I. Statistics

The Statistics Section handles several hundred enquiries each year, on legal, social, economic and production subjects.

The Agricultural Division of Statistics Canada and Saskatchewan Agriculture have a long-standing working relationship. Statistics Canada conducts more than 100 agricultural surveys in Saskatchewan each year: surveys of producer seeding intentions, seeding progress, crop production and yield estimates of principle grains, livestock inventories, farm commodity prices, expenditures and capital value. The Statistics Section assist with these surveys.

The Statistics Section has identified areas where statistical information is not readily available and has compiled required publications. Market information on farm commodities is published each week. A one-page fact sheet of agricultural statistics is published periodically. This fact sheet includes such subjects as major commodities produced in the province, farm prices, livestock inventories on farms, farm population, farming incomes and expenses and climate. The fact sheet is primarily intended to help individuals and organizations to keep abreast of major survey releases and revisions. The Agricultural Statistics Pamphlet and the Agricultural Statistics Handbook are intended for current and historical data requests.

The Cattle Marketing Report which tracks movement and marketing of cattle, is sent out monthly and annually to more than 400 cattle producers and organizations.

The Statistics Section continued to survey 290 farmers and 43 agricultural representatives, on a weekly basis from April 1, 1983 to October 30, 1983, for crop conditions. The regular crop reporting service provided current, unbiased information of Saskatchewan crop conditions for producers, agribusiness, foreign government agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture and Saskatchewan Agriculture staff.

The specialty crop information program was expanded to include a Specialty Crop Intentions Survey in March. The Specialty Crop Report, in late November, provided detailed production and area information that was not available from any other agency. Producer response and co-operation was excellent.

II. Public Information

The Public Information Section answers requests for information from the public and other government departments and agencies and refers requests to appropriate specialists when necessary. The section provides consultant services to branches and agencies in the areas of publication requirements, promotion and advertising. The section is also responsible for organizing functions such as official banquets, openings and conferences that the department sponsors.

A promotional advertising and public relations campaign was prepared for Agriculture Appreciation Week held in the spring with the theme "Saluting the Spirit of Farmers". The section also organized a major staff conference and published the proceedings of the conference.

Public Information co-ordinates the preparation and publication of the annual report for the department, provides information to the provincial media about the department's policies, programs and activities and administers the Century Family Farm Award program.

Systems and Analysis Branch

"The Systems and Analysis Branch aims to improve the marketing systems available to Saskatchewan farmers, and to help develop new department of agriculture programs."

I. Marketing Systems Section

The Marketing Systems Section analyzes the performance of marketing systems for farm products, including agricultural processing. The section also provides professional and secretarial services to the Natural Products Marketing Council, the supervisory agency for marketing boards and commissions.

Activities of the council included:

- meeting with marketing boards and commissions to review their operations;
- reviewing and approving market orders and amendments to marketing plans of boards and commissions;
- preparation of an annual report of the council advising the minister of agriculture on matters relating to marketing boards and commissions;
- analysing new marketing plans for hogs, pulses and broiler egg hatching producers;
- administration of national marketing agreements;
- hearing appeals from persons who consider themselves adversely affected by the operations of the boards and commissions.

In 1983-84, the appointed Saskatchewan Hog Commission was changed to an elected Saskatchewan Pork Producers' Marketing Board following a vote of producers conducted by the council.

The section is also responsible for provision of financial assistance to the Saskatchewan Farmers' Market Association for the establishment and operation of markets for farmers to sell their products locally. In 1983-84, $45,000 in assistance was provided to 25 markets.

II. Policy Analysis Section

The responsibility of the Policy Analysis Section was to:

- help with program development and review for the department;
- handle special projects;
- provide support services to department programs;
- deal with agricultural policy issues relating to land use and resources policy, energy and the environment.

Some activities in 1983-84 included:

- conducting benefit-cost analysis of irrigation and flood control projects;
- assisting the project team responsible for establishing the Saskatchewan Water Corporation;
- participating in the Environment Assessment Review Panel;
- serving on a technical committee for Saskatchewan drought proofing studies.

The section also took part in discussions with farmers and farm groups about possible legislation for producer check-offs to help pay for research and market development for Saskatchewan farm products.

III. Stabilization and Market Analysis Section

The Market Analysis Section provides analysis of markets and potential for crops and livestock. The section also assists in administration of three stabilization programs:

- Saskatchewan Hog Assured Returns Program (SHARP) which has been operating since 1976, provides support to 2,370 producers who provide 78 per cent of Saskatchewan market hogs.
- The Cow Calf to Finish Market Insurance Plan which started operating on January 1, 1983 has 3,128 participants.
- The Feeder Finish Market Insurance Plan started operating on January 1, 1983 but coverage was backdated to October 4, 1982. A total of 835 production units were enrolled.

The two beef plans cover approximately 65 per cent of slaughter steer and heifer marketings in the province.

IV. The Saskatchewan Sheep and Wool Marketing Commission and the Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission

The branch again provided administration grants to the Saskatchewan Sheep and Wool Marketing Commission and the Saskatchewan Vegetable Marketing Commission. Staff continued to work with the commissions on marketing alternatives. Further information is contained in the latest annual report of the commissions.

V. Saskatchewan Matching Grants-In-Aid Program

The branch assumed responsibility for the Saskatchewan Matching Grants-in-Aid Program in 1983-84. The program which is administered through the Saskatchewan Council for International Co-operation (SCIC), provides matching grant assistance for development projects in developing countries around the world. The 1983-84 budget was $1 million.

Veterinary Services Branch

"The Veterinary Services Branch develops programs to control animal diseases and to ensure a wholesome supply of meat and meat products."

The branch employs six veterinary specialists, a poultry specialist and 10 technical staff. The branch programs are divided into diagnostic laboratory services and field services. The authority for branch programs are The Veterinary Services Act and The Department of Agriculture Act.

I. Field Services

There were 55 veterinary service districts in operation in 1983-84 which incorporated 210 rural municipalities. The agriculture grants to veterinary service district boards amounted to $434,000.

The swine herd health program provided financial support to encourage swine producers to have their local veterinarian make regular farm visits. This program was augmented by the services of a branch veterinary swine specialist who helped solve difficult disease and management problems.

A branch veterinary dairy specialist provided the same type of back-up expertise to the dairy industry.

Dairy and swine farmers were encouraged to keep better records of illness, treatment, production and financial information.

The branch poultry specialist provided nutritional and management advice to small poultry flock owners. A testing inspection program for hatchery supply flocks was also carried out by the specialist. In 1983-84 a testing program of fancy bird flocks was carried out as part of a program to make Canada free of pullorum. This specialist also handled all inquiries relating to fur farming.

The meat inspection program continued in 15 domestic plants. The inspection was carried out on contract by veterinary inspectors who work for Agriculture Canada. For the first time processing inspection was provided to the abattoir in Kamsack. The cost of this contract in 1983-84 was $277,500, 17 per cent of which was paid by the plant owners.

Two inspectors working for the Saskatchewan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals carried out 225 investigations in 1983-84. These inspections were in response to reports of inhumane treatment of animals. A grant of $62,700 was provided.

The Veterinary Student Summer Employment Program created jobs with practising veterinarians and provided valuable practical experience for 21 veterinary students for three and one-half months. A grant of $35.00 covered half of their salaries.

A veterinary poultry specialist and animal science poultry specialist with headquarters at the University of Saskatchewan provided disease, nutritional and management expertise to the larger egg, broiler and turkey producers in the province. This program was funded by a grant of $82,000 from Saskatchewan Agriculture and $16,000 from the three marketing boards.

II. Laboratory Services

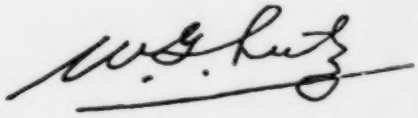
Veterinary diagnostic work is provided by two laboratories, one in Regina and the other at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (W.C.V.M.) in Saskatoon. Each laboratory handled approximately 11,000 submissions in 1983, a 10 per cent increase over 1982. W.C.V.M. received a grant of $359,000 to perform diagnostic work. All diagnostic work done before December 1, 1983 was performed free. Charges for work on non-food animals are expected to produce an annual revenue of approximately $50,000.

Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Saskatchewan

I have examined the balance sheet of the Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund as at March 31, 1984 and the statement of revenue, expenditure and reserve fund for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund as at March 31, 1984 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Regina, Saskatchewan,
June 6, 1984

W.G. Lutz, F.C.A.
Provincial Auditor.

Balance Sheet

March 31, 1984

Statement 1

	1984	1983
Assets		
Cash	$ 7,246	$ 10,156
Short term investments, at cost (approximates market) (Schedule 1)	48,878	47,945
Accrued interest	304	908
	$ 56,428	$ 59,009
Liabilities and Reserve Fund		
Accounts payable	$ -	$ 1,862
Reserve Fund	56,428	57,147
	$ 56,428	$ 59,009

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Reserve Fund

Year Ended March 31, 1984

Statement 2

	1984	1983
Revenue:		
General assessment	$ 4,246	$ 5,589
Investment interest	4,679	6,501
	$ 8,925	$ 12,090
Expenditure:		
Compensation payments	5,443	3,456
Investigation and hearing claims (Schedule 2)	4,201	4,407
	9,644	7,863
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditure	(719)	4,227
Reserve Fund, beginning of year	57,147	52,920
Reserve Fund, end of year	$ 56,428	$ 57,147

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Schedule of Investment Securities

Year Ended March 31, 1984

Schedule 1

Security	Balance April 1, 1983	Additions	Disposals	Balance March 31, 1984
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Mercantile Bank of Canada, Purchased Mercantile Bank Bearer Discount Note, maturing June 30, 1983 @ 9.6%	$ 47,945		$ 47,945	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Pitfield, MacKay & Ross Ltd., Purchased Bank of Commerce Mortgage Corporation, promisory note maturing December 12, 1983 @ 9.55%		$ 47,931	47,931	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c Burns Fry Ltd., Purchased Fuji Bank, Banker's Acceptance, maturing March 8, 1984 @ 9.95%		48,842	48,842	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, a/c McLeod, Young & Weir Ltd., Purchased Government of Canada Treasury Bill, maturing June 1, 1984 @ 9.86%		48,878		48,878
	$ 47,945	$ 145,651	$ 144,718	$ 48,878

Schedule of Investigation and Hearing Claims Expense

Year Ended March 31, 1984

Schedule 2

	1984	1983
Investigation	$ 1,907	$ 3,119
Board of Directors	2,264	1,163
Rental	30	125
Total Investigation and Hearing Claims Expense (to Statement 2)	$ 4,201	$ 4,407

Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 1984

1. Authority

The Agricultural Implements Compensation Fund was established under the authority of the Agricultural Implements Act.

2. Administration Costs

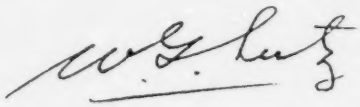
In accordance with Section 52, of the Agricultural Implements Act, all sums required for the purposes of this Act are paid by the Department of Agriculture from moneys appropriated by the Legislature for such purposes and these costs are not reflected in these financial statements.

Cattle Marketing Deductions Fund

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Saskatchewan

I have examined the statement of receipts and payments of the Cattle Marketing Deductions Fund for the year ended March 31, 1984. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, the statement of receipts and payments presents fairly the cash position of the trust fund at March 31, 1984 and its receipts and payments for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1, applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Regina, Saskatchewan,
June 28, 1984

W.G. Lutz, F.C.A.
Provincial Auditor.

Statement of Receipts and Payments

Year Ended March 31, 1984

	1984	1983
Receipts		
Collections under sections 3 and 4 of The Cattle Marketing Deductions Act and regulations	$ 96,717	$ 50,303
Less: Commissions on collections	8,889	5,027
	$ 87,828	$ 45,276
Bank and investment interest	10,377	9,106
Total receipts	$98,205	$54,382
Payments		
Grants (Schedule 1)	81,634	76,097
Advisory Committee expenses	1,255	4,410
Refund of deductions	65	—
Total payments	$ 82,954	$ 80,507
Excess of receipts over payments (payments over receipts)	15,251	(26,125)
Total cash and investments, beginning of year	86,442	112,567
Total cash and investments, end of year	$101,693	$ 86,442

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 1984

1. Accounting Policy

   (a) The records of the fund are maintained on a cash basis, whereby revenues are recorded as collected and expenditures are charged to the accounts as payments are made. Accordingly, the financial position of the fund at March 31, 1984 does not include accounts receivable of $60,884 (1983 - $9,153), accrued interest receivable of $33 (1983 - $1,381), and commissions payable of $2,435 (1983 - $915).

   (b) The fund has not been charged with occupancy costs or administrative salaries and no provision for such costs is reflected in these statements. These costs are borne by the Department of Agriculture.

2. Legislative Authority

   (a) Pursuant to the provisions of the Cattle Marketing Voluntary Deductions Amendment Act proclaimed into force August 29, 1983, the Cattle Marketing Voluntary Deductions Act Trust Fund was continued as the Cattle Marketing Deductions Fund and the assets and liabilities of the Cattle Marketing Voluntary Deductions Act Trust Fund were deemed to be the assets and liabilities of the fund.

   (b) The fund is administered by an Advisory Committee established under the Act who authorize all expenditures from the fund subject to the approval of the Minister of Agriculture.

Schedule of Grants
Year Ended March 31, 1984

Schedule 1

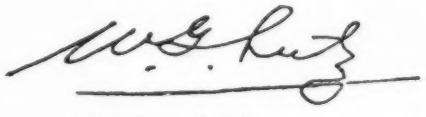
	1984	1983
Saskatchewan Stock Grower's Association in respect of the Saskatchewan Beef Information Centre	$ 3,100	$ 2,895
Canadian Cattlemen's Association in support of National Beef Information Centre	78,534	73,202
	$ 81,634	$ 76,097

Horned Cattle Fund

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly
Province of Saskatchewan

I have examined the balance sheet of the Horned Cattle Fund as at March 31, 1984 and the statements of the revenue, expenditure and operating surplus and changes in financial position for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the fund as at March 31, 1984 and the results of its operations and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1, applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.



Regina, Saskatchewan,
June 3, 1984

W.G. Lutz, F.C.A.
Provincial Auditor.

Balance Sheet

Statement 1

March 31, 1984

(with comparative figures at March 31, 1983)

	1984	1983
Assets		
Current:		
Cash	$ 30,539	$ 24,225
Marketable securities, at cost which approximates market	69,386	88,796
Accrued interest receivable	39	22
Inventory of cattle (Note 3)	361,679	368,112
	$461,643	$481,155
Liabilities and Operating Surplus		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	$ 3,310	$ 1,648
Operating Surplus - Statement 2	458,333	479,507
	$461,643	$481,155

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement of Revenue, Expenditure and Operating Surplus

Statement 2

Year Ended March 31, 1984

(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	1984	1983
Revenue:		
Collections under Section 3 and 4 of The Horned Cattle Purchases Act	$237,922	$237,980
Less: Commission on collections	23,701	23,719
	$214,221	$214,261
Revenue from Pathlow Beef Projects (Note 3)	176,996	228,518
Bank and investment interest	3,764	11,860
Total Revenue	394,981	454,639
Expenditure:		
Grants (Schedule 1)	204,789	239,011
Pathlow Beef Research Project - operating costs	206,577	207,121
Department of Agriculture - The Horned Cattle Purchases Act Advisory Committee - meeting expenses	4,789	4,460
Total Expenditure	416,155	450,592
Excess of (expenditure over revenue) revenue over expenditure before extraordinary item	(21,174)	4,047
Extraordinary item		
Write-down of investment (Note 4)	-	(135,000)
Excess of expenditure over revenue	(21,174)	(130,953)
Operating surplus, beginning of year	479,507	610,460
Operating surplus, end of year	$458,333	$479,507

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Statement of Changes in Financial Position

Statement 3

Year ended March 31, 1984

(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	1984	1983
Source of funds:		
From Operations		
Excess of (expenditure over revenue) revenue over expenditure before extraordinary item	$(21,174)	$ 4,047
(Decrease) increase in working capital	(21,174)	$ 4,047
Working capital, beginning of year	479,507	475,460
Working capital, end of year	$458,333	$479,507
Represented by:		
Current assets	461,643	481,155
Current liabilities	3,310	1,648
	$458,333	$479,507

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)

Notes to Financial Statements
March 31, 1984

1. Accounting Policy

(a) The Horned Cattle Fund follows the modified accrual basis of accounting whereby certain revenue and expenditures are accounted for on an accrual basis. However, collections and grant payments under The Horned Cattle Purchases Act are recognized in the accounts on a cash basis. Accordingly, accounts receivable of $26,778 (1983 - $41,428) and commissions payable of $2,878 (1983 - $4,143) are not included in this statement.

(b) The Fund has not been charged with any occupancy costs or administrative salaries and no provision for such costs is reflected in these statements. These costs are borne by the Department of Agriculture.

(c) Cattle inventory is valued at approximate realizable value at the fiscal year end. (Note 3)

2. Legislative Authority

Pursuant to the provisions of the Horned Cattle Purchases Amendment Act proclaimed into force October 1, 1983, the Horned Cattle Trust Fund was continued as the Horned Cattle Fund and the assets and liabilities of the Horned Cattle Trust Fund are deemed to be the assets and liabilities of the Fund.

The Purpose of this Fund is to promote research and development in the livestock industry.

3. Inventory of Cattle

In view of the difficulty which exists in assigning on a rational basis the costs of production to animals at various stages of maturity and since the correlation between costs and revenue is not nearly as close as in most businesses, the inventory of cattle held in connection with the Pathlow Beef Research Project has been valued at approximate realizable value at the fiscal year end. The corresponding changes in inventory from one year to the next have been described as Appreciation (decline) in value of opening herd.

Revenue from Pathlow Beef Project

	1984	1983
Cattle sales and natural increase in herd	$199,044	$189,001
Appreciation (decline) in value of opening herd	(22,048)	39,517
Total Revenue	$176,996	$228,518

Write Down of Investment

The investment in the Saskatchewan Herford Sales Company Limited was represented by 135,000 non voting preferred shares of that company purchased in 1975-76 for a total cost of $135,000. Subsequent to the 1983 year end the company was sold and management determined that the fund would not receive any return on its original investment. Accordingly, the investment was written down to recognize the loss.

Schedule of Grants

Schedule 1

Year Ended March 31, 1984

(with comparative figures for the previous year)

	1984	1983
Western College of Veterinary Medicine	$ 65,300	$146,000
Canadian Western Agribition Association	35,000	35,000
Saskatchewan Holstein-Friesen Association	12,000	19,209
Black Fly Project	-	10,680
Assiniboia Agricultural Society	-	10,000
Saskatchewan Livestock Association	14	6,616
Saskatchewan Simmental Association	-	6,000
Watson Bros. Ranch (Haemophelosis Outbreak)	-	3,656
University of Saskatchewan (Department of Animal and Poultry Science)	18,000	1,150
Saskatchewan Limousen Association	-	700
Biosystems Consulting (Black Fly Project)	22,675	-
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities	14,300	-
Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization	19,500	-
University of Saskatchewan - College of Agriculture	18,000	-
	$204,789	$239,011

(See accompanying notes to the financial statements)